

**AMENDMENT**

**Amendment(s) to the Abstract:**

*Please delete the current abstract and replace with the following paragraph:*

Embodiments of this invention relate to a method comprising: a) coupling a first PNA monomer to a sterically-hindered solid support comprising a sterically-hindered acid-forming cleavable linker wherein the PNA monomer comprises a base-labile N-terminal amine protecting group; b) optionally washing the solid support to remove excess first PNA monomer; c) treating the solid support for a period of no more than about 1 to about 2 minutes with a deprotection reagent, under basic conditions, that deprotects the base-labile N-terminal amine protecting group; d) washing the solid support to remove the deprotection reagent; and e) coupling a second PNA monomer to the N-terminal amine of the first PNA monomer after performing steps (c) and (d) to thereby form a support bound PNA dimer. In some embodiments, the first PNA monomer is coupled directly to the sterically-hindered acid-forming cleavable linker.